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VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

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September 2012

President's Message-The Feedline

By Marcus Maclean, KI6WDX

How I spent this holiday weekend is probably nowhere close to how you spent yours aside from our club secretary Jerry, KD6WKY. Both he and I went over to Walter, WB6JTJ house this weekend to finalize the two outside erected antennas that serve his shack. We first lowered the wire dipole antenna to exchange the lanyard rope with a UV rated rope so that over time, it doesn't break and cause a problem with his HF rig operation. Next we prepared two flexible extension coax cables for use inside of his shack and I mounted a pair of MFJ coax cable entrance plates to his shack's interior & exterior walls so that the temporary cable entrance thru his shack window could be relocated thru the house wall.

I then cut off the PL-259's and ran the cable thru the wall and cut-off the excess length, prepared each cable end to receive a new PL-259 connector, soldered it in place, attached a barrel connector and each flexible extension cable because the LMR-400 coax his shack has doesn't like to bent sharply since sharp bends tend to break the braid inside the cable. Each radio (his HF and VHF/UHF radios) had a grounding wire connected since quite awhile back when this shack project first got started, I installed a nice looking grounding network so that there would be no objections or concerns or questions about how the grounding was installed.

We both went up onto the roof to finish with the grounding connections to both tripod antenna towers just in case either is struck by lightning which is rare around here, but does happen sometimes. I cleaned up his desktop operating surface, grouped together his various cables and electrical cords. I glued in place his power supply, his laptop computer and a USB hub so that neither would nor could be moved in the course of Walter operating his station. We both took time away from our holiday weekend to help this club member who is unable to do any of the work himself due to his personal disabilities. And I suppose I could have mentioned this project on the air with our last club net meeting, but I didn't because I rarely ever hear of anyone needing or willing to lend their assistance in such matters. Had anyone attended, the project would have instilled good installation knowledge and soldering techniques.

For those who are unaware of Walter's personal disabilities, he is both blind and a paraplegic operator. While he does not have vision, his hearing is exceptional! So today is Labor Day and I am leaving for his shack just as soon as I finish this newsletter bit to finish of what remains to be done. Since the group home in which resides was to move up to Dixon earlier this summer, that move has been put on hold until sometime into the immediate future and when it does become a reality, both myself and Jerry will assist Walter's move by taking down his two antennas and moving them up to the new home to reinstall them. Until that time arrives (and it might never arrive), Walter can enjoy operating his radios. The very last project is to eliminate the RFI interaction with his HF rig operation regarding the AT&T U-Verse system. I've been told by an AT&T technician how to go about the task at hand. I don't know if what he was telling me is indeed true and if it's not, I have the already purchased copper mesh at my shack to construct a Faraday cage for Walter to reduce and/or eliminate the RFI/U-Verse problems.

And with the coming weekend (Sept. 8th & 9th), the three of us (Jerry, KD6WKY & Chris, KD7TQO) will be hopefully putting my 50 foot combined metal antenna mast in place so I too can make my shack more functional with my HF rig besides what I already have in place to operate my VHF & UHF rigs. I already have three (3) metal tripod supports up on my house roof and as soon as the HF rig is functional, my plan is install a stacked pair of vertically polarized 2 meter Yagis and with any luck, construct a new 6 meter Yagi and get it installed. What I want is for all of what antennas I want installed on my shack's roof to be in place before the usual fall and winter rains come so that when those dreary days of winter are here, I can at least delve into my shack's operating radio equipment to take away the boredom! The installed antennas can easily be taken down when the time arrives to replace my house roof.

Okay, that's about all I have for the moment. I would like to let everyone know that this club is on the road to expansion by holding its first scheduled VE license exam testing on December 1st, 2012. This is the first on many future license testing exams that this club will partake in. And just a reminder to all, another Executive Order will be forthcoming in the next

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few days that will be sent via an email with the Vaca Valley Radio Club in the subject line. Since I have as does our club treasurer all of everyone's email addresses which we believe to be current, there should be no reason for this next forthcoming Executive Order and/or any future emails to go unnoticed unless I get a "bounce back" for an email sent as undeliverable. If that happens, then for those club members who did not receive the email notice that will be the club member's responsibility to inform both myself and the club treasurer of the email address change. All future email communications from your club president will have the "Vaca Valley Radio Club" in the subject line to identify the origin of the sent email. If the sent email winds up in the spam or junk folders, then no one can place blame on the sender, right?

Well, that's about all for the moment. Until next month, be safe, be well and G.O.T.A.! 73!

August Club Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 pm local time by club president Marcus Maclean KI6WDX. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by our club president.

The July meeting minutes were approved by a voice vote as submitted.

No financial report was submitted as our club treasurer was out of town. The September meeting will have an update.

Old Business: None

New Business: The new September list of Net Control Operators for the Tuesday night net is published and ready to go thanks to club VP Chris Jones KD7TQO. As a reminder the net will meet at 7:00 pm beginning Tuesday, September 3.

The Board of Directors has decided to all get Volunteer Examiner credentials in order to be able to facilitate amateur radio exams locally. The club now has six or seven credentialed VEs.

There was much informal discussion and demonstration of coaxial cable prep and connector application using a nifty tool brought by Marcus KI6WDX.

The club meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB—2011
ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Marcus Maclean KI6WDX
Vice President: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Secretary: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB
Director: Antonio Del Rio, N6ZGB
Director: Tom Christman KE6MDM

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Marcus Maclean KI6WDX
Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

Amateur Radio Exam Date Set

We are proud to announce that the W6VVR Vaca Valley Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring our first Amateur Radio License Exam Session on Saturday, December 1 at 9:30 AM, at the Vine Street Fire House.

All levels of licenses will be available for testing and walk-ins will be welcomed. The standard exam fee of $15 (cash please, a $5 and a $10) will apply.

If you have been wanting to upgrade your license or someone in your family wants to get a license, this is a great opportunity to take the exam(s) without having to travel very far. Spread the word!

This exam is dedicated to the memory of our good friend and radio amateur colleague Larry Hogue W6OMF (SK). Larry facilitated testing at his QTH every Labor Day weekend for years. This is a chance for our club to step up and fill some of the void in service that Larry and Sue Hogue so generously offered.

With this in mind, a large turnout and expanded outreach to the area is requested by all radio amateurs whenever you are on the air or talk with someone that might be interested in taking an exam.

Around the Shack

By Jerry Olive, KD6WKY

Around this time of year as summer is winding down I start planning my operation for the California QSO Party that runs the first full weekend of October every year. http://www.cqp.org The planning usually starts out with finding a county I want to work from since I enjoy the County Expedition category of operation.

This year I will be working from Yolo County and probably without my good friend Ralph Jones AA6GM since he will probably be working in Arizona by then. Ralph and I have worked three County Expeditions for CQP and enjoyed them all; especially our adventure to the foothills between the Santa Ynez Valley near Santa Maria and the Pacific Ocean just south of Vandenberg AFB.

My back up plan is work from a prune orchard just west of Winters but I want to do some recon work on Labor Day weekend to see if I can find a hill with an easterly slope for a good take off angle to all of North America.

The set up is pretty easy since I have everything necessary to run a portable operation and stay warm and keep hydrated. Skip AF6HC has been out with me to the prune orchard and had a good time.

When operating with a group of people it is always a good idea to find a call sign that the group can use other than someone's call sign. I have reserved K6Y a 1x1 call sign for CQP. I like this call sign because it has the first and last letters of my call sign and the "Y" will be identifiable as Yolo County for those looking for Yolo.

This past week the bands have been open on HF early in the morning long path to South Africa. I had never worked anyone long path before until last week when during my attempt to work Tom ZS1AFS in South Africa beaming 82° short path, I could barely hear him. I noticed a DX cluster spot for another station with notes showing a long path contact so I turned my beam around 180° to 262° to see what would happen. As I was turning the beam to the west I noticed his signal getting stronger. To my amazement, I was able to work Tom ZA1AFS via long path with 100 watts on the 20 meter band at 14.220 MHz simplex at a long path distance of > 14,300 miles. I worked Tom ZS1AFS again on Labor Day but had to use the amplifier at 500 watts long path. I'll be looking for his Log Book of the World confirmation in a few weeks. Tom said he was leaving for England to visit his children and would update LoTW when he returned home.

I just bought a low band coil and counterpoise wire kit from Buddipole to be able to work 80 meters from my California QSO Party County Expedition site next month. I don't think it will be a great antenna, but anything is better than nothing when you don't have 80 meter capability. I'll let you know what happens with that.

I received several QSL cards in August from the Middle East, Vietnam, Guatemala, and Bulgaria; nice cards, but nothing exotic. On LoTW I confirmed one new country last week – Benin.

There is a group of radio amateurs in route to Swains Island to work the NH8S DXpedition which starts up September 5 and goes for a couple of weeks. Google Swains Island and tell me about it, it looks very remote. If you want to work NH8S, let me know, you can come over and work them from my QTH. I call South Pacific Island stations Back Yard DX; they are very easy to work from the West Coast. It's fun to get them in the log on several bands and modes.

Keep your batteries charged! See you at the club meeting in September. 73!

Amateur Radio Quiz: Contest Season Refresher

1) Match the multiplier to the contest:

a. Zone	e. ARRL Sweepstakes
b. Country	f. ARRL International DX Contest
c. Section	g. CQ World-Wide Contest
d. State	h. ARRL 10 Meter Contest

2) Which contest features "QTC" as a way of making extra points?
a. Scandinavian Activity Contest (SAC)
b. Worked All Europe (WAE)
c. VK/ZL Contest
d. North America Sprint

3) What contest offers both phone and CW operation at the same time?
a. ARRL Sweepstakes
b. CQ Worldwide Contest
c. ARRL International DX Contest
d. ARRL 10 Meter Contest

4) What is a "captive rover?"
a. The dog chained up in your neighbor's back yard.
b. A mobile station that only works the parent club station.
c. Slang for the multiplier hunting position at a multi-op station.
d. A county-hunting mobile station running a list.

4) What is a "captive rover?"

a. The dog chained up in your neighbor's back yard.
b. A mobile station that only works the parent club station.
c. Slang for the multiplier hunting position at a multi-op station.
d. A county-hunting mobile station running a list.

5) Match the exchange element with the contest:

a. Name	g. ARRL International DX Contest
b. Check	h. North American QSO Party
c. Power	i. Kids Day
d. Serial Number	j. CQ WPX Contest
e. Age	k. ARRL Sweepstakes
f. Favorite Color	l. All Asia Contest

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browse our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please email us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance.

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988 General Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Vine Street Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.2ØØ(-)
WV6F 44Ø.Ø25 (+) PL 127.3Hz

6) In the ARRL Sweepstakes, QSOs count for how many points?
a. 1 point
b. 2 points
c. 3 points
d. 4 points

7) The biggest QRP contest of all -- the QRP ARCI Fall Contest -- is held in what month?

8) Can a US station work a Fijian station for credit in the VK/ZL Contest? Can the US station iwork a Japanese station?

9) The proper way to acknowledge a station's exchange and resume soliciting contacts is:
a. N0AX Contest
b. CQ CQ CQ Contest N0AX
c. Thank You, N0AX QRZ?
d. Test de N0AX

10) If you work all possible multipliers in the ARRL Sweepstakes, you have just made a...
a. Slam Dunk
b. Top Ten
c. Grand Tour
d. Clean Sweep

11) Which state QSO party gives out bottles of wine as a prize?
a. Oregon
b. New York
c. Delaware
d. California—hint hic!

12) Which contest is "not a contest," but attracts more participants than *any* other ham radio activity in North America?

Bonus Question: Which contest is the oldest contest?

Answers

1. a-g, b-f, c-e, d-h
2. b -- The QTC mode of WAE encourages short log extracts to be exchanged, making this contest novel and challenging!
3. d -- The 10 meter band gets mighty lively on the second weekend in December.
4. b -- These stations activate multiple grids in VHF contests for a specific club effort.
5. a-h, b-k, c-g, d-j, e-l, f-i (a name is also exchanged in North American QSO Parties).
6. c -- 2 points per QSO.
7. October -- turn down the power and give it a try; you'll be amazed at the signals you hear.
8) Yes (Fiji) and No (Japan) -- Oceania stations work the world in this popular regional DX contest.
9) c -- If you don't acknowledge the information, how is the other station supposed to know that you made the QSO? Many top stations don't log an unacknowledged QSO.
10) d -- One of the most coveted achievements in contesting results in a swell coffee cup, to boot.
11) d -- Pour it in your Sweepstakes Clean Sweep Coffee Cup and use it to wash down some smoked salmon from the Washington State QSO Party!
12) ARRL Field Day

Bonus Answer: The ARRL International DX Contest first ran in 1927, predating the ARRL Sweepstakes by five years.

VoIP Hurricane Net Provides Support During Hurricane Isaac

The **VoIP Hurricane Net** running on the *WX_TALK* EchoLink conference node 7203/IRLP 9219 was active over a two day period from Tuesday, August 28, through Wednesday, August 29, as Hurricane Isaac pounded the US Northern Gulf Coast with high winds, extremely heavy rainfall, significant storm surge and river and stream flooding. The VoIP Hurricane Net operated for more than 25 hours continuously during the US coast landfall.

Rob Macedo, KD1CY, Director of Operations for the VoIP Hurricane Net, was thankful for the overwhelming support received. "We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the **Crescent City Amateur Radio Group - CCARG** and the N5OZG repeater system," he said. "They provided a significant number of reports from Southeast Louisiana and the New Orleans area. The EchoLink node on their repeater system, maintained by Joe Glorioso, N5OZG and other CCARG amateurs, remained active throughout the duration of the event."

"We'd also like to thank all net controls and other stations who also supported the VoIP Hurricane Net," Macedo added, "Including those with listen-only nodes that allowed many more people to monitor our activities without impacting operations. Their cooperation is appreciated."

Hams throughout the area contributed to the effort. John McHugh, K4AG, the WX4NHC Coordinator, noted that "A report from Doug Arnold, KE7DCZ, of a measured wind gust of 80 MPH in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana was utilized in one of the National Hurricane Center advisory estimate updates during the overnight hours."

Amateurs such as Gary Shuford, KM5ME, a private meteorologist and weather observer for the National Weather Service, did everything possible to remain on the air and render their services. After losing commercial electric power, Gary switched to a portable generator and continued to submit reports to the net. He reported a wind gust of 107 MPH in Gretna, Louisiana around 4 AM CDT on Wednesday, August 29, with more than eight inches of rain recorded.

Among a number of repeater systems active in the area, the W5YL system maintained its connection to the VoIP Hurricane Net, acting as a conduit for additional weather data and damage reports from the affected areas. The W5YL system covers Terrebonne, Lafourche, Assumption and St Mary parishes.

Julio Ripoll, WD4R, Assistant WX4NHC Coordinator, thanked the VoIP Hurricane Net for their efforts. “All reports are being printed and submitted to the hurricane specialists,” Ripoll said. A complete list of the reports received during Hurricane Isaac can be seen in the **VoIP Hurricane Net Report Viewer**. **ARRL Headquarters Activities**

Long before Isaac made landfall ARRL Emergency Preparedness staff in Newington, Connecticut were monitoring the progress of the storm and staying in touch with amateurs in the Caribbean. As Isaac moved closer to landfall, contact was made with section staff in the path of the storm.

Beginning on Friday, August 24, daily updates were sent to section staff and conference calls were held with national-level served agencies and partners. "Regular contact with section staff, WX4NHC, VOIP WX net, Hurricane Watch Net, and our served agencies helps us develop situational awareness and respond accordingly," said Mike Corey, KI1U, ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager.

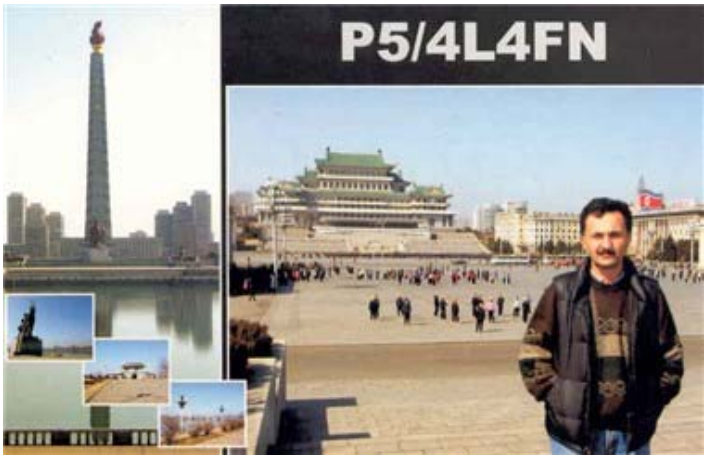
As Isaac impacted Louisiana and Mississippi, a need for qualified net control stations in the Delta Division was identified. By reaching out through the website, e-mail and social media, volunteer net-control stations were quickly identified and put in touch with the net manager. "It was good to see contesters also step forward and volunteer," reports Corey. "Their sharply honed operating skills were put to good use.”

Items for Sale

For Sale—Kenwood TS-570D w/500 KHz CW Filter installed. Radio is in excellent condition with no deficiencies. This is a fine radio for general operating or contesting. The DSP is wonderful! Asking price is $700.00. Contact Jerry Olive, KD6WKY for details and arrangements.

For Sale—Yaesu FT-8800R Mini-Manual. Mint condition, never used. Kept in a smoke free environment at all times. Asking price is $16.95. Contact Marcus Maclean KI6WDX via email or after the Tuesday night net to negotiate the deal.

The card below is the rarest DXCC country—North Korea



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely — Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
Street: _____
City: _____Zip: _____
Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)
License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)
E-Mail Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues --------- $20.00 _____
Each Family Member -- $ 2.00 _____
Student ---------- $ 5.00 _____
Repeater/Autopatch donation --- _____
Call/Name badge -------- $11.00 _____
Optional ARRL membership
ARRL dues---------- $37.00 _____

Total---------- _____
Paid by CASH: ____ Check #_____
DATE:_____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143